



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1951
7 August 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council deplores Croatian Government offensive against Krajina Serbs and attacks on United Nations personnel; demands immediate end to all military action.
- * UNCRO says Croatian Army controls Sectors North and South after three days of fighting; UNHCR estimates 120,000 refugees have fled towards Serb territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- * Security Council extends UNAVEM III mandate for six months; commends Angolan parties for commitment to peace process, but voices concern at slow pace in implementing Lusaka Protocol.
- * Department of Humanitarian Affairs appeals for \$102 million to assist demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in Angola.
- * Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of ICFY report.
- * Secretary-General says Hiroshima peace day ceremony reaffirms faith in dignity and worth of human person; stresses need for comprehensive test-ban treaty.

The Security Council has deplored the Croatian Government's decision to launch a broad military offensive and demanded that all military action in and around Croatia cease immediately. In a statement by its President, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia), late Friday night, the Council said that decision had unacceptably escalated the conflict, with the risk of further consequent attacks by whatever party.

The Council strongly condemned attacks by Croatian Government forces on United Nations personnel, which had already resulted in the death of a Danish peace-keeper. It demanded that such attacks cease immediately and that all detained personnel be released. The Council also condemned any shelling of civilians, and demanded that no military action be taken against them and that

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their human rights be fully respected. It reminded the parties of their responsibilities under international humanitarian law and reiterated that those who committed violations of it would be held individually responsible.

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The Croatian Army today had effective control of Sectors North and South after continuing its offensive against the Krajina Serbs over the weekend, according to a United Nations spokesman. Some 15,000 Serb soldiers and civilians were trapped in Sector North, where the situation was described as tense.

United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) Commander General Bernard Janvier yesterday brokered an agreement between the parties. That agreement would have permitted the Krajina Serbs to travel to Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina after turning over their heavy weapons to the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO). However, it broke down today after the Croatian Army claimed that Bosnian Serb aircraft had bombed five Croatian cities. The Army also claimed that UNCRO had failed to set up weapons collection sites, but UNCRO said the Army had prevented it from doing so. This morning, coordinated attacks by the Croatian Army and the Bosnian Government's Fifth Corps cut off the road that the Serbs would have taken out of Croatia.

UNCRO reported that most of its observation posts and bases had been captured, destroyed or surrounded, mainly by the Croatian Army, but also by Krajina Serb and Bosnian Government forces. Two Czech peace-keepers were killed in Sector South yesterday when their observation post was hit in crossfire. More than 500 peace-keepers have been dislodged by the recent fighting.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that some 120,000 refugees were on the move from Sectors North and South towards Serb-controlled territory around Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The agency said many of those people had left with only meagre personal belongings, and was arranging convoys to supply them with humanitarian assistance.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) until 8 February 1996. It commended the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for their commitment to the peace process, but expressed concern at the slow pace in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. It urged the parties to adhere strictly to the revised timetable for the Protocol, and expected them to finalize arrangements for the establishment of quartering areas, troop disengagement and demining. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1008 (1995).

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The Council stressed the importance of the completion of the electoral process, as provided for in the Lusaka Protocol. It called on the parties to adopt a comprehensive programme for the formation of the new armed forces, and accelerate the exchange of prisoners and the repatriation of mercenaries with a view to reinforcing freedom of movement throughout Angola. It urged the parties to put an immediate end to the laying of mines and to unauthorized troop movements.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to accelerate the deployment of UNAVEM III infantry units as conditions improved, with the objective of reaching full strength as soon as possible. It urged the parties to provide the Mission with the necessary information and to ensure freedom of movement to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate. The Council noted with concern increasing levels of violence perpetrated by unaffiliated groups, and called on all parties to seek to control and disarm those threats to the peace process. It authorized the Secretary-General to increase the strength of UNAVEM III's human rights unit as appropriate.

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The Department of Humanitarian Affairs today appealed for \$102 million for a revised assistance programme to demobilize and reintegrate former combatants in Angola. It asked donors to support that vital component of the Angolan peace process launched in November 1994.

In accordance with agreements between the Angolan Government and UNITA, the demobilization will take place in stages over two years. In the initial stage, UNITA troops will be disarmed, assembled in quartering areas, and then incorporated in a the new national army. Some 100,000 combatants from both sides will then be demobilized and reintegrated into civilian society.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close its border with areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina controlled by Bosnian Serb forces, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report on the operations of the Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic, they also concluded that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries in the last 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 3 August.

The Co-Chairmen noted that 185 international personnel were currently on duty with the Mission, assuring 24-hour manning of the 19 border crossing points. Conditions for the observers had improved considerably in July, when 13 portacabin containers loaned by the United Nations were installed at the crossing points. Cooperation with the authorities of the Federal Republic continued to

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be good. The Mission continued to enjoy full freedom of movement there, although observers had been verbally threatened by local people on eight different occasions.

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The Hiroshima peace day ceremony commemorated the resolve, enshrined in the United Nations Charter, to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment yesterday, in a message to the ceremony delivered by the Special Representative for Public Affairs, Joseph Verner Reed.

The introspection compelled by the horror of Hiroshima had made the world a safer place, the Secretary-General said. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had been validated in perpetuity. Progress towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty must be built upon, and non-nuclear-weapon States must be provided with legally-binding international security guarantees.

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